(87-1071-5) St. Peter's and the Vatican—greatest of Churches, greatest of Palaces—Rome, Italy.

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We have climbed to the roof of a house facing the great square of St. Peter's in Rome, and are looking directly west toward the pillared portico and lofty dome of the vast cathedral, so vast and so perfectly proportioned that we do not at first realize its enormous dimensions. "This eastern façade is 365 feet high. From the pavement of the church to the summit of that lantern is 403 feet and to the top of the cross 435 feet — about the height of the great pyramid of Cheops. . . . The diameter of the dome is 138 feet. Some few years ago it was discovered that the dome was cracking at its base, crushing itself with its own enormous weight, and in order to preserve it a huge, tight-fitting band of steel was placed about it (a little above the drum on which the dome rests), and this band may be seen from here. Repairs are always needed on that mountainous structure, and it costs about $35,000 every year to keep it in its present condition. The tallest building bathed in sunlight beyond the colonnade to the extreme right is a part of the Vatican. It contains the personal apartments of the Pope and his cabinet of cardinals. (The Pope's favorite sitting-room is on the second floor from the top on the side toward St. Peter's.) The tall building just to the left and in the shadow forms the west side of the Court of Damasus and contains the famous Loggia of Raphael. Between the building and St. Peter's can be seen the roof of the Sistine Chapel (where Michelangelo painted his stupendous masterpiece, *The Last Judgment*). The house in which Raphael lived and died stood on the spot where the right colonnade ends. . . . To me, those rows of gigantic pillars have always seemed like giant soldiers, marching and countermarching on that grandest of parade-grounds, the Piazza of St. Peter's."

(From *Rome through the Stereoscope — Journeys in and about the Eternal City*, by D. J. Ellison, with specially "keyed" maps; published by Underwood & Underwood.)

Cathedral of St. Peter and the Vatican, Rome.

Cathédrale de Saint-Pierre et le Vatican, Rome.

Die St. Peterskirche und der Vatikan zu Rom.

Catedral de San Pedro y el Vaticano, Roma.

St. Peters Katedral och Vatikanen, Rom.

Соборъ Святаго Петра и Ватиканъ въ Римѣ.